

The bottom line is that this restaurant has spent 6 years, over \$1 million; they have had bad publicity; they have had lower morale; they have had the Court come in and take over their operations and examine it from every angle. Then we are giving EEOC \$18.5 million in increase. I think EEOC must not have enough to do. If they claim there is a backlog, it is because they are spending time on such frivolous litigation. They should be examined very carefully.

Small businesses all across the country are being victimized by the EEOC. They are at the point where they cannot complain because they think retaliation will come. Joe's Stone Crab is a story of one owner saying, I will take on the government for the sake of small businesses. This restaurant is fighting the battle for small business all across the country.

My last comment, Mr. Chairman, is that I urge, as this bill moves forward and in the years to come, that the chairman address the issue of frivolous litigation and damages that the EEOC brings upon the small businesses in America.

JOHN SEIBERLING—  
ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues that yesterday, September 8, was the 80th birthday of our former colleague and a good friend, John F. Seiberling.

John Seiberling was first elected to Congress in 1970, having already spent 25 years as a member of the military serving in World War II and as an attorney in private practice with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., which his grandfather founded. After 16 years of Congressional Service, John retired voluntarily in 1986 with a lifetime of outstanding accomplishments.

Originally inspired to run for Congress by his opposition to the U.S. involvement in Viet Nam, John Seiberling quickly rose as a leader in the House efforts to end the war. Concerned about our defense and foreign policies, John was also a leader in the Congressional organization, Members of Congress for Peace through Law, known later as the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus.

In the House, John Seiberling served on the Committee on the Judiciary. An active member, John participated in the Watergate hearings and was the floor manager for the historic House passage of the antitrust law rewrite, the Scott-Hart-Rodino Antitrust Act.

However, John was best known for his commitment to the environment and for his many accomplishments as a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Today, this Committee is the House Resources Committee. As a member of that Committee, John was a very special Member who stood very tall. I had the privilege to serve with John for ten years and to learn from him. John played a major role in securing the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This important law has reversed the damage caused by surface coal mining. John was also largely responsible

for the enactment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Act. This law created Ohio's first national park.

Alaska and the preservation of the unique national treasures of that state were at once a passion and an inspiration for John Seiberling. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands in 1977, John Seiberling was a leader in speaking out, fighting and shaping the comprehensive law and policy that finally preserved this last bit of wilderness for all America. While the fight took six long years and much of John's time, it was a labor of love. John Seiberling and Mo Udall were eventually successful in passing Alaska lands legislation which doubled the size of our National Park System and quadrupled our national wilderness system.

John's commitment to the environment continues today in his role as the Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, of which he was a founder.

I am certain that my colleagues will join me in saluting John Seiberling's accomplishments and wishing him a very happy birthday—a well deserved 80th year. John has shaped our landscape and environmental policies well into the future. Our best wishes for many more years of life and celebration of his work, the legacy and American heritage for generations yet unborn. Happy Birthday to the environment's best friend, John Seiberling.

#### THE AGING OF AMERICA

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 12, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### THE AGING OF AMERICA

America is getting older. As Americans are living longer than ever before and as the Baby Boomers ease into their senior years, fundamental shifts will occur in our society. In areas such as health care, housing, and recreation, the impact of an aging population will be felt. The costs of providing these services will put a strain on the financial resources of governments and families alike.

The importance of Social Security and other federal programs for older Americans is emphasized by the fact that financial prospects for many Americans approaching retirement are grim. According to a recent comprehensive study: 40% have no pension income other than Social Security. One in five households has no assets and one in seven persons has no health insurance. 20% are disabled.

The cost of supporting older persons will be a heavy burden on the living standards of younger workers. By the year 2030 one in five Americans is projected to be 65 or older, up from one in eight today. And the proportion of the oldest Americans, those over 75, whose health care costs are especially high, will nearly double from present levels. This too will have a huge impact on government budgets and workers' incomes.

An aging America raises major social and political questions. Is it fair to place huge tax burdens on workers to pay for the retirees? Will the projected heavy spending on programs for older people crowd out other

important government spending like national defense or law enforcement? Will high taxes be necessary and, if they are, will they depress economic growth?

Given these facts many of the pundits are predicting warfare between the generations, between the young and the old. Yet I am doubtful of that. In my experience young people are just as concerned about protecting Medicare and Social Security as their parents are. My own view is that the bond between the generations is strong, and that should not surprise us given the strong family ties that still exist for the most part in this country. I think young people want older people to be secure and to have quality health care, and they don't want them to be dependent on them.

#### CHALLENGES OF AN AGING AMERICA

Everybody acknowledges the difficulty of ensuring the long-term stability of Social Security and Medicare. We simply cannot afford the contract we now have on the table as the Baby Boom generation approaches retirement. We will have a smaller number of workers supporting a much larger number of retirees, and something will have to give. So it represents a formidable challenge to our system of government to carry Americans— young and old—through the major changes needed in these programs.

The trend in America has been to retire earlier and earlier, and that has placed an extra burden on federal programs. In the last century more than 75% of men 65 years and over worked. In 1997 only 17% did. But things are beginning to change. Retirement ages are creeping back up and the whole concept of retirement is changing. Among other things, older people are increasingly leaving the work force gradually, taking temporary and part-time jobs.

Older people require more expensive social services—particularly health care—and they depend upon government programs like Social Security for much of their income. The importance of Social Security to older Americans cannot be over-estimated. Almost 92% of those 65 and older receive Social Security benefits and many would live in poverty if it did not exist. Moreover, as the number of the oldest Americans grows, the use of medical and long term care services such as hospitals, home care, nursing homes, and elder day care will increase sharply. The effect on Medicare and Medicaid will be significant. Today these programs provide insurance for health and long-term care for 97% of the elderly.

#### POLITICAL CHALLENGES

One has to wonder whether a democratic government is going to be able to deal with these challenges, particularly if it involves reducing benefits for an increasingly large and powerful group. Most analysts view bringing future benefits under control as necessary, yet older persons do not want their benefits cut. One alternative is raising taxes but that means that the current Social Security tax rate would have to be boosted sharply to provide the benefits that have been promised. Others suggest that we should adopt policies directing benefits to low-income elderly persons, and that would reduce costs and improve economic efficiency by getting the money to those who need it most. But to shift in the direction of either a tax increase or a benefit reduction causes a loss of popular support of many people. The challenge to the country may be to make the long-term investments in education, infrastructure, and basic research that lead to growth in the economy and new business opportunities, which in turn makes it easier for the economy to absorb the costs of programs for older Americans. The problem is how that long-term investment, much of which is directed toward younger people,